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INSIDE

Show time

For news about the upcoming GCSAA Championship, awards and a look at the CMAA show, turn here.....24

Blinded by the light

German firm introduces Mercedes-based mower that cuts grass with a laser9



PAIUTES' CLUBHOUSE

Unique clubhouse anchors the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort, about 20 miles north of Las Vegas, Nev. The complex features two courses by Pete Dye, with a third Dye design already underway. Tribal leaders hope to turn their \$500-million project into a premier destination golf resort. See story on page 15.

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PERIODICAL

PACIFIC DUNES JOINS BANDON DUNES ON THE OREGON COAST. SEE STORY ON PAGE 15.



Golf Trust of America, faltering, to sell 47 courses

By JAY FINEGAN

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Golf Trust of America (GTA), the country's third-largest golf course holding company, is on the verge of liquidation and plans to sell off its assets.

The liquidation plan, recommended by W. Bradley Blair II, chairman and CEO, requires approval by the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), and then by shareholders. Kathy Boles, director of communication, said the shareholders' decision probably would come in January.

SEC approval, while not automatic, appears likely. "The company looked at seven or eight alternative strategies. They settled on liquidation and asset sale as the best way to maximize shareholder

value," said Paul Penney, a San Francisco-based investment analyst with RS Investment Management, formerly Robertson Stephens. "With that intention, I have no doubt the SEC will approve the liquidation."

GTA currently owns 47 courses in 17 states, primarily in Florida, South Carolina, Illinois and Michigan, with smaller numbers in Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, California and elsewhere.

Already, the company has reached an agreement to sell three of its Florida properties. Affiliates of Emerald Dunes Golf Group have offered \$35 million for the trio — Polo Trace Golf Course, Cypress Creek Course and Emerald Dunes Golf Course. The Emerald Dunes group, which owned the courses

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Finchem named Old Tom Morris Award winner

By JOEL JOYNER

DALLAS, Texas — Tim Finchem, commissioner of the PGA Tour since 1994, will receive the 2001 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The presentation will take place here on Feb. 15, during the 72nd International Golf Course Conference and Show.

The Old Tom Morris Award is presented each year to someone who, "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf, has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

"There is no question that Tim Finchem

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Photo: PGA Tour
Tim Finchem

New Rees Jones course emerges in Sonoran Desert

By JAY FINEGAN

PEORIA, Ariz. — Set amid the spectacular mountain scenery of Arizona's high Sonoran Desert, the Founders Course at Quintero Golf & Country Club opened in November.

The 7,174-yard layout — the first private Rees Jones course in Arizona — occupies some of the most dramatic terrain in the Southwest. And no sooner did the Founders Course begin play than development focus turned to its sister course at Quintero, this one designed by Greg Norman.

It promises to be a dynamic pair. "Quintero has all the elements of America's finest country clubs — privacy, exclusivity and superbly crafted amenities, plus a natural splendor that is really quite extraordinary," said owner and developer Gary McClung, the world's largest Ford truck dealer.

The gated private golf club complex lies approximately 45 minutes northwest of Phoenix's Sky Harbor International

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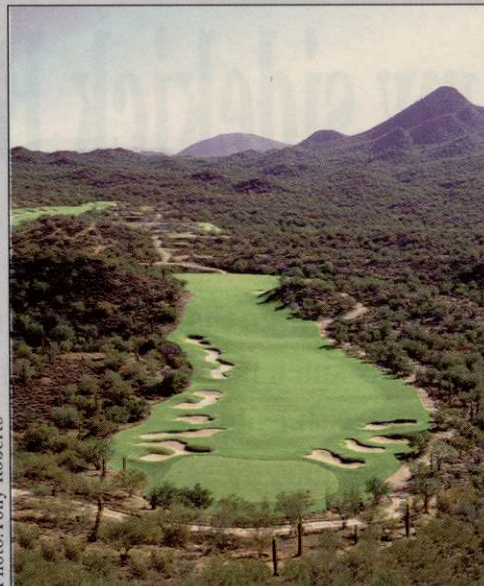


Photo: Tony Roberts

The 14th hole at the Founders Club at Quintero Golf & Country Club, northwest of Phoenix

Dursban rate reduction takes effect

By JOEL JOYNER

INDIANAPOLIS — Golf course superintendents using Dursban Pro insecticide to control chinch bugs, fire ants and even adult billbugs can continue to do so now that the product label has changed.

While Dow AgroSciences, the makers of chlorpyrifos (Dursban), and the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agreed last summer to limit most outdoor residential and non-residential uses, Dursban Pro is still available for golf course use. But since Dec. 1, product with labels reflecting a reduced application rate has been entering the market.

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SHOW PREVIEW

Finchem wins GCSAA honor

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deserves considerable credit for fueling the growth and popularity of golf," said GCSAA president Scott Woodhead. "His vision, commitment and passion for the game are rivaled by few."

Finchem joined the PGA Tour team as vice president of business

affairs in 1987. After being promoted to deputy commissioner and chief operating officer by commissioner Deane Beman, Finchem succeeded Beman in 1994.

Under his leadership, donations to charities from Tour events have risen consistently each year, with \$44 million contributed in 1999. Finchem also has been a proponent in the development of the World Golf Foundation, including that Foundation's First Tee program.

The First Tee provides accessible golf facilities to young and underprivileged players. "It has great potential for growing the game and enriching literally thousands of lives through the life lessons it teaches," said Finchem.

Under Finchem's guidance, the PGA Tour staff and professional golfers have been successful in developing strategy and fundraising for the GCSAA foundation and drawing attention to the work of superin-

tendents and their courses.

"We're grateful for the support we have received from the PGA Tour under Tim Finchem's leadership," said Steve Mona, GCSAA's CEO. "The fact that all tour agronomists and TPC superintendents are GCSAA members is a testament to the relationship the two organizations have. I know he takes pride in calling himself a friend of the superintendent." ■

MTESP awarded

Continued from page 24

industry," said Craig Hoffman, superintendent at The Rock at Woodmoor on Drummond Island, Mich. "At this course, we had to complete some updates, make adjustments in the rinse and loading pads, and add protection around the well-heads."

As a member on the program's stewardship steering committee, Hoffman also appreciates the assistance of statewide agencies and environmental organizations. "We've tried to include as many state agencies and environmental advocacy groups as possible," he said. "At our committee meetings, we've had representatives from the governor's staff, the Department of Environmental Quality, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited."

WOODHEAD TO PRESENT AWARD

GCSAA president R. Scott Woodhead will present the award to program director Lyman. "The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program is a shining example of how groups can work together for the common good of all," said Woodhead. "I commend the program partners for their outstanding work. I hope it spurs other states to enact similar programs."

The program is supported by MSU, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Golf Association of Michigan, the Michigan Environmental Council, the Michigan Nature Conservancy, the Kalamazoo Nature Center and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. ■

5,000 at CMAA

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junction with the International Wine Society's live auction.

Richard Simmons, the self-proclaimed "court jester of health," will lead a "Sweatin' Session" exercise program on the morning of Jan. 31.

The closing event, on Feb. 1, promises to be a lively affair – a black-tie gala at the Marriott. The evening kicks off with a reception honoring CMAA president Warren Arseneaux. The formal dinner-dance will feature entertainment by the well-known dance band, The Pink Flamingoes. ■



A Note From The President

20th October

Dear Bill:
A beautiful course, no crabgrass all season, and we stayed within budget. Looks like the new greens mower is a go!

Good job.
Don

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